

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Approved Minutes for Tuesday, September 4, 2012
3:15 – 5:30 pm
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Present: Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Nonny Burack, Alan Powell. Carol Gray (arrived late)
Absent: Pat Holland, Melissa Perot.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 3:25 PM.

1. Additions to Presentation Guidelines

Alan brought in changes made to Presentation Guidelines adding that a presenter should get help from a colleague with the overhead. The changes were submitted to Mary to upload to the website.

2. TMCC Budget

Mary indicated that Kris Pacunas found a suitable high end portable public address system for IT that can be used on the Bus Tour, so we need not budget for one.

Alan will inquire at the School Department about the cost of a bus and driver for the tour.

Mary and Nonny will try to cost out repeating expenses; labels, plastic sleeves, presentation boards, etc. Nonny said she would prefer that we purchase from a local vendor. Budget will be added to the next agenda.

3. Support for Dependent Care

Carol handed out a draft proposal for Dependent Care and a Reimbursement Form. She said that there had been up to \$4000 budgeted for dependent care under the previous Town Manager.

Peggy showed concern that so few Town Meeting Members (TMMs) have applied for reimbursement and that the fund is becoming difficult to justify.

Carol said that it isn't important that a lot of people use the fund, but that it is there to remove an impediment to those wishing to serve, even if nobody was applying.

Alan stated that it is not necessarily only current TMMs, but potential candidates reluctant to run because of care issues that we should also be targeting.

Most of the initial work on Dependent Care was done by the Town Meeting Improvement Committee. Frank Gatti will be contacted for info.

Carol thought that our efforts should go towards establishing a workable policy.

Peggy felt that justification of the fund and recruitment of potential users is important. She does not want to ask for something that will not be seriously considered. We discussed different ways to accommodate both.

Mary suggested a notice through the Yahoo group.

Nonny suggested a letter to the newspaper to reach non-TMMs. It was decided to time that with an election.

We decided to review Carol's draft, gather historic info, consider budget proposals, and re-address the issue at the next meeting.

4. Suggestions from Select Board and Others

No follow-up has been done yet on Gretchen Fox's proposal to publish the Town's expenditure of funds allocated by TM for studies and their results as well as RFP results.

Peggy said this sort of information should be addressed by departments posting documents on their sections of the website in real time, like a Select Board packet. The Finance Committee and maybe the Planning Board and ZSC should be doing the same thing according to the Open

Meeting Law. Peggy and Mary will follow up with the appropriate officials. It was suggested that TMCC do the same and post our documents.

The Select Board asked that we consider:

Starting time for TM – nothing has changed since our survey that showed Town Meeting members were evenly divided on this issue. The decision rests with the Select Board.

Consent calendar – TMCC supports its use, but leaves it in the Moderator's hands

Follow-up questions - in the Moderator's hands, we asked him to try to be consistent

TM Voter fraud – not seen as an issue. Mary suggested helping people with mobility problems to sign in.

5. Information Forum

Carol contacted Stephanie Ciccarello to set a date for the event, possibly Oct 30th. She followed up on leads from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) for possible speakers and contacted Susan Waite, the Town's Recycling Coordinator. Carol will write up an announcement to post to the Listserv.

6. Precinct Meetings

Mary asked for volunteers to host precinct meetings:

Prec 1&3	Nonny
Prec 2&9	Peggy & Barbara Ford
Prec 4&10	Alan
Prec 7&8	Mary & Carol
Prec 5&6	To be named

Mary will start scheduling rooms. Other potential volunteers will be contacted.

7. Warrant Review

Nonny volunteered to help Peggy with the Warrant Review. Mary will list it on website.

8. TMCC Website /Listserv Material

No submissions

9. Scheduling of Meetings

TMCC meetings:

	Sept 20 th	3:00pm
	Oct 2 nd	3:00pm
TMCC Forum	Oct 30 th	7:00pm

10. Minutes of June 4, 25 and August 27

Minutes of June 4th approved as amended 4-0 with 3 absent

Minutes of June 25th approved as amended 4-0 with 3 absent

Documents submitted: Draft proposal for Dependent Care, Dependent Care Reimbursement Form

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Submitted by Alan Powell

Approved October 10, 2012